

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

As stated above, Applicant elects FIG. 1 (claims 22-32 and 35), a membrane formed on the outside (claims 22-35), joining a membrane by form fitting (claims 22-35), injection molding the support body in one step and injection molding the membrane in one step (claims 22-35), providing a gasket on an end section (claims 22-26 and 28-35), and using an airtight membrane (claims 22-35), for further prosecution and respectfully traverses the requirement for restriction for the following reasons.

It is believed that any search for the species embodied in the elected species above would necessarily include a search for the remaining species. Thus, the simultaneous search for all species is believed not to constitute an unreasonable search for the Patent Examiner.

In addition, it is believed that the objectives of streamlined examination and compact prosecution would be promoted if a search were conducted simultaneously for all species. Also, the necessity of filing multiple patent applications in this case does not serve to promote the public interest because of the

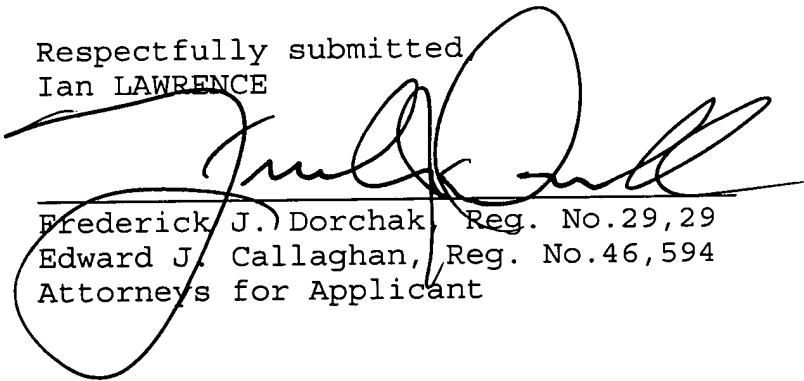
extra expense that is involved, in filing fees and examination costs, as well as the burden upon the public, due to the necessity of searching through a multiplicity of patent files in order to find the complete range of the subject matter claimed in several different patents that could otherwise be found in one issued patent only.

Applicant reserves the right to file divisional applications for the non-elected species.

For all these reasons, it is respectfully requested that the restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. 121 be withdrawn and that an action on the merits of all the claims be rendered.

Respectfully submitted
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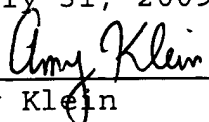
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